

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EB-07 AID-05 IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3120

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3393

MADRID ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 3361

SUMMARY: TENSION STILL HIGH AS POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CONTINUES MARATHON MEETING.
PRESSURES SHOW NO SIGN OF ABATING AS (1) SOCIALISTS
AND OTHER MODERATES SEEK TO EXPAND ROLE OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY;
(2) EFFORTS TO REOPEN REPUBLICA FALTER; AND (3) COMMUNISTS
PUSH REVOLUTIONARY UNITY THEME AND SEEK TO SEPARATE OTHER
PARTIES FROM ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. FAR LEFT CRTS PLAN RALLY
TONIGHT, JUNE 17, IN SUPPORT OF FORMATION OF NON-PARTY REVOL-
UTIONARY GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

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1. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CONTINUES DELIBERATIONS:

POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC), WHICH HAS BEEN IN ALMOST CONTINUOUS SESSION SINCE JUNE 13, IS EXPECTED TO END ITS DELIBERATIONS SOMETIME TODAY, JUNE 17. ANXIETY IS MOUNTING AMID SPECULATION THAT MAJOR POLITICAL DECISIONS ARE IN OFFING. IN UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO DAMP DOWN RUMORS, RC SPOKESMAN VASCO LOURENCO CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS ROUTINE SESSION FROM WHICH NO DRAMATIC CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE EXPECTED. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS PROBING, VASCO LOURENCO SPECIFICALLY DENIED THAT MILITARY GOVERNMENT WAS CONTEMPLATED. HE NOTED THAT POLITICAL COMMITTEE WAS ADDRESSING A FOUR-POINT AGENDA, INCLUDING: (1) ANALYSIS OF CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION; (2) CLARIFICATION OF MODEL TO BE FOLLOWED; (3) ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND GOVERNMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF MODEL; AND (4) ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION. VASCO LOURENCO ALSO ADMITTED THAT DEMANDS FROM COPCON OPERATIONAL UNITS, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "RECOMMENDATIONS," WERE BEING DISCUSSED BY RC. (COMMENT: VASCO LOURENCO'S COMMENTS FOOL NO ONE. THE RC IS IN MIDST OF MOUNTING POLITICAL CRISIS REFTEL). SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION IS INDICATED BY FACT THAT PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, UPON HIS RETURN FROM ROMANIA JUNE 16, WENT DIRECTLY TO SITE OF RC MEETING. END COMMENT.

2. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SEEKS LARGER ROLE: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 16 APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE RULES OF PROCEDURE DESIGNED TO ENABLE IT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE. KEY FEATURE OF PROPOSED RULES IS PROVISION FOR OPEN DISCUSSION ON TOPICS OF NATIONAL CONCERN FOR ONE HOUR AT BEGINNING OF EACH DAY'S SESSION. ALL MODERATE PARTIES -- SOCIALISTS, POPULAR DEMOCRATS, AND CDS -- SUPPORT PROPOSED RULES. COMMUNISTS AND FELLOW-TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT OPPOSE RULES. COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO ARGUE FOR MINIMAL ROLE FOR ASSEMBLY.

3. REPUBLICA STILL NOT OPEN: REPUBLICA AFFAIR IS NO NEARER SOLUTION. FROM SOCIALIST STANDPOINT SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED. COPCON OFFICIALS, REPUBLICA ADMINISTRATORS, AND MEMBERS OF WORKERS COUNCIL GATHERED OUTSIDE REPUBLICA OFFICES EVENING JUNE 16 FOR UNSEALING. THREE-HOUR HAIR-SPLITTING SESSION ENSUED DURING WHICH COPCON OFFICERS PUT FORWARD NARROWIST

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POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION (IN FAVOR OF THE WORKERS) OF RC DECISION TO REOPEN PAPER. MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED TO ENTER OFFICES UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. COPCON OFFICER THEREUPON HANDED OVER SET OF KEYS TO EACH OF PARTIES, SYMBOLICALLY WASHING HANDS OF MATTER. OFFICES HAVE BEEN RESEALED AND SOCIALISTS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED EMBASSY THAT REOPENING OF REPUBLICA IS NOW UNCERTAIN.

4. IN ANOTHER DISCOURAGING MEDIA DEVELOPMENT, EMISSORA NACIONAL ANNOUNCED JUNE 17 THAT A THREE-MAN TEAM OF OFFICERS FROM THE FIFTH DIVISION OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF WOULD ASSUME ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF EMISSORA NACIONAL.

5. CRT DEMONSTRATION: PLANS PROCEED FOR RALLY SPONSORED BY FAR-LEFT WORKERS, SOLDIERS, AND SAILORS COUNCILS (CRTS) IN SUPPORT OF A "REVOLUTIONARY EXIT" FROM THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS. RALLY CALLING FOR FORMATION OF "NON-PARTY REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT" IS SET FOR 7:30 P.M. JUNE 17 IN MID-TOWN LISBON PARK.

6. COMMUNIST ECHO UNITY THEME: THE COMMUNISTS MEANWHILE CONTINUE TO PLEDGE THEIR FIDELITY TO THE AFM AND REVOLUTION, WHILE CALLING INTO QUESTION PATRIOTISM AND MOTIVES OF MODERATE PARTIES. IN COMMUNIQUE DISTRIBUTED JUNE 17, THE PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE STRESSED THAT A COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS ONLY POSSIBLE IF ALL PARTICIPATING PARTIES SUPPORTED REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES. UNLESS THOSE PARTIES WHICH HAD ASSUMED ATTITUDES COUNTER TO THE REVOLUTION (READ SOCIALISTS) QUICKLY CHANGED THEIR POSITION, CONTINUATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT AS NOW CONSTITUTED WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. PCP STATEMENT CONCLUDED THAT NEW COALITION WOULD HAVE TO BE FORMED BASED UPON THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN AFM AND PEOPLE, INCLUDING ROLE FOR PCP.
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